(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what steps are proposed by Government to improve the functioning of Indian Airlines; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The Government has asked the two airlines to explore possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors. Appointment of a Common Board of Directors is a step in this direction.

(e) and (f) To improved its functioning, Indian Airlines is taking steps to intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Joint/strategic plan by IA and AI

1645. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India are working out joint strategic plans;

(b) if so, the details of such strategic collaboration;

(c) whether any facilities could be mutually utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The Government has asked the two airlines to explore possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors.

(c) and (d) Both airlines are utilising the aircraft maintenance facilities of each other. They are also collaborating in certain areas of commercial activities.

Expansion of the runway of Ahmedabad Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel Airport

1646. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion work of the runway of Ahmedabad Sardar Vallabhabhai patel Airport has since been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the expansion of the runway of the said airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The Project involves expension of runway from 9000 ft. to 11,500 ft. link taxiway, expansion of apron and associated pavements at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. Airports Authority of India has acquired 61 acres of land from the State Government in August. 1996. The work can commence only after the State Government diverts the water pipeline running through the acquired land and it is estimated that it will take 2 years for completing the work.

Constitution of Advisory Council

1647. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will appoint an advisory council to guide and interact with aviation industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the private aviation sector has no organised forum or recognised forum to interact with Government; and